

Lake Superior Citizens Fishery Advisory Committee Meeting
Chocolay Township Fire Hall Training Room
December 12, 2018
10:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Committee members and Attendees:

Attendees for the December 2018 meeting are identified on Attachment #1

Agenda and Meeting Notes:

- Introductions, housekeeping, opening comments
Attendees (20 total) were welcomed. The intention of the meeting was stated as focusing on Lake Trout regulations in Lake Superior with open discussions including considerations about potential desires to change Lake Trout regulations lake wide and/or specifically for Isle Royale, Stannard Rock, and Big Reef.
- Discuss documents sent prior to the meeting for review
 - a) Lake Superior Trophy Trout Impact Statement.pdf
 - b) Assessment of lake trout population at Stannard Rock.pdf
 - c) StannardRockCharter.jpg
 - d) Stannard Rock txt with update.pdf
- Presentation of lake-wide Lake Trout data including Isle Royale, Stannard Rock, and Big Reef
Shawn Sitar presented assessment data collected by the MDNR Marquette Fishery Research Station on the RV Lake Char. Slides covered bathymetry, lake trout (forms, relative abundance, mortality, length composition, diet), charter fishing (catch, effort, success rates), Master Angler submissions, and hooking mortality.
- Follow up discussion
 - All agreed with the underlying goals of maintaining healthy sustainable Lake Trout populations in Lake Superior that provide recreational fishing for harvest, consumption, and trophy fishing opportunities.
 - General agreement regarding desirability to consider different regulations on offshore areas compared to those for nearshore.
 - Ideas were expressed about potential to designate offshore areas (e.g., Isle Royale, Stannard Rock, Big Reef, West Islands) as special, destination fisheries, perhaps connected with Pure Michigan. Such a designation would entail specific management, regulations, assessments, and promotions (could be thought of as “heritage” fisheries).
 - General agreement that it’s best to delay proposing any regulation changes for a year or so to allow for more information to be gathered, more viewpoints to be heard, and potentially be informed by Consent Decree negotiations.

- Areas were identified as needing more information and/or evaluation including:
 - Angler effort (charter & non-charter; better tracking overall; determination of effort levels that would trigger concern; potential for self-reporting by anglers [species, size, location, date, time, harvest vs release]; attitudes [quality vs quantity]; suggestions to use satellite imagery and/or cameras [e.g., on the Stannard Rock Lighthouse] to help understand level of effort).
 - Measuring impacts of recreational fisheries: determination of harvest levels that would trigger concern; potential for different goals for different locations [size structure, age structure, catch per effort]; designation of boundaries for different areas [mechanisms and process to set such boundaries, law enforcement considerations].
 - Education and Outreach: improve public (angling and non-angling) understanding, appreciation, attitude; contaminant considerations; improve public's knowledge about handling fish properly (especially for catch-and-release) and find ways to increase survival of released fish; education about taxidermist's ability to create fish mounts from photographs.
 - Law Enforcement: make sure any changes actually make sense from a common-sense perspective (e.g., any boundaries for separate regulations should be defined simply such as, "within a 3-mile radius of the Stannard Rock lighthouse"); educate anglers on the ethics and implications of continuing to target Lake Trout once they've reached their bag limit or are close to it.
- Discussion of additional information thoughts and ideas, including reading/paraphrasing comments sent prior to the meeting by people (Ron Kinnunen, Brian Helminen, George Lindquist, Dave Caroffino, Jim Dexter) who were not able to attend.
- Commitment to continue this meeting's momentum and direction as a topic at the next meeting of LSCFAC.
- Adjourn
- Next meeting:
 - April 4, 2019

Attachment 1

Committee meeting attendees

LSCFAC meeting attendees, December 12, 2018

| <u>Name</u> | <u>Association</u> |
|-----------------------|--|
| Larry Argall | Central U.P. Sport Fishing Association |
| Ed Baker | MDNR Fisheries Research |
| Lindsie Beauchamp | South Shore Fishing Association |
| Floyd Dropps | Upper Peninsula Sportsmen's Alliance |
| Sgt. Jerry Fitzgibbon | MDNR Law Enforcement |
| Patrick Hanchin | MDNR Tribal Coordination |
| John Highlen | Fred Waara Chapter - TU |
| David Holsworth | South Shore Fishing Association |
| Luke Hubbard | South Shore Fishing Association / Grand Marais |
| Cory Kovacs | MDNR Fisheries Management |
| George Madison | MDNR Fisheries Management |
| Rodney Markham | Isle Royale Boaters Association |
| Duncan Price | Fisher Price Charters |
| Ross Rinkinen | Copper Country Walleye Association |
| Phil Schneeberger | MDNR Fisheries Management |
| Shawn Sitar | MDNR Fisheries Research |
| Mike Verhamme | Upper Peninsula Sportsmen's Alliance |
| Russ Weisinger | Ottawa Sportsmen's Club |
| Travis White | Keweenaw Charters |
| Bill Ziegler | Upper Peninsula Sportsmen's Alliance |